(b) if so, what is the factual position stating the estimated loss of revenue to the Exchequer due to these fraudulant deals; and

(c) what action is contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The News Item published in the 'Indian Express' New Delhi dt. 25th July, 1987 titled "Bachchan's real estate buying spree" has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) 43 sale deeds have been registered with the Sub-Registrar, New Delhi during 1985 and the average price shown in these sale deeds comes to Rs. 14,355,85 per bigha. The price of land depends on the location/quality and what is mutually agreed to between the parties. It is for the concerned Authorities like Income Tax etc. to decide whether such transaction of property is undervalued and take further action according to law, if feasible.

Expansion of Vanaspati plant of MARKFED, Punjab

4231. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MARKFED of Punjab has applied for expansion of its Vanaspati plant at Khanna and also for an additional licence of 100 MT per day capacity, on the basis of their new technology for production of edible rice bran oil;

(b) if so, what are the reason for declining the same; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation has been issued a 100 MT licence for expansion of their Amritsar plant but have not so far implemented the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) MARKFED, Punjab had applied for expansion of its vanaspati plant at Khanna. The application has been *prima-facie* rejected. No application from MARKFED, Punjab for additional licence of 100 MT per day capacity for production of edible rice bran oil has been received.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Subsidy on sale of Certified Seeds

4232. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had recently received a representation from Punjab for providing a subsidy on sale of certified seeds through the State agencies;

(b) if so, what has been Government's response thereto; and

(c) what other steps are under consideration for stepping up the production of quality seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to develop necessary infrastructural facilities for the production and timely availability of quality seeds to the farmers throughout the country, the Government of India implemented Seed Projects with the help of World Bank known as National Seeds Project-I(NSP-I) and National Seeds Project-II(NSP-II). During this period (from 1976—85), nine State Seed Corporations have been set up in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab under NSP-I and Bihar, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and U.P. under NSP-II. In order to further strengthen the facilities, the Government of India is considering to launch Phase-III of the Project in the year 1987-88. The Project covers Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and North-Eastern States, besides augmenting facilities in the existing project States of Andhra Pradesh, Mararashtra, Bihar, Karnataka; Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.